

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY OF EDUCATION-RELATED ACTS FOR 1999

The following are listed according to the act number. In parentheses is the number of the bill as it originated in the House or Senate. Clicking on the link will take you to the appropriate bill on the Vermont Legislative Web site (<http://www.leg.state.vt.us>).

[Act #006 \(S. 30\) An Act Relating to Delay of Implementation of the Governor's Diploma](#)

This legislation was initiated because the system for development of the Governor's Diploma was not far enough advanced to allow for its implementation within the statutory timelines. The two-year delay will ensure that the state assessment system is stabilized, special education issues are ironed out, and students will have been given sufficient lead time and notice about the content of assessments.

[Act #010 \(H. 434\) An Act Relating to State Aid for Comprehensive High Schools](#)

This bill was designed to complete the technical education financing system which was previously enacted last year in Act 138. Because the legislative process ran out of time last year, the question of how to fund comprehensive high schools was not resolved and left to a summer study. Comprehensive high schools are schools that provide one or more approved technical education courses but which, by themselves, are not technical education centers. There are seven in Vermont. The bill establishes a system in which a comprehensive high school shall receive assistance for tuition reduction. It also designates three high schools in Caledonia County (Lyndon Institute, St. Johnsbury Academy, and Concord High School) as a technical center for purposes of funding.

[Act #029 \(H. 533\) An Act Relating to Capital Appropriations and State Bonding](#)

The "Capital Bill":

Sec. 10

Appropriates assistance to the department, communities and school districts for school construction projects and equipment.

Sec. 27

Exempts certain fees for the construction of the Springfield Vocational Technical Center.

Sec. 49

Allows for the state board to approve a technical center in another state as the technical center which district students may attend when the district is geographically isolated.

Sec. 50

Addresses the overhead costs to technical centers in FY 2000.

Sec. 51

Amends section 3448 of Title 16 regarding school construction aid to local school districts.

Secs. 51 and 52

Permit certain school districts to vote funds or authorize bonds prior to July 1, 1999 and nonetheless be eligible for school construction aid under the new policy.

[Act #044 \(S. 90\) An Act Relating to Binding Arbitration in Municipal Labor Disputes](#)

This legislation was trimmed down dramatically as it worked its way through the House. All language referring to binding arbitration was struck from the bill and replaced with language that states that a municipality in which a strike is permitted shall not permanently replace striking employees.

Act #049 (H. 548) An Act Relating to Equal Education Opportunity, Omnibus Act

This bill comprises taxes, fees, and provisions for technical corrections to Act 60 of 1997.

Sec. 1

Addresses special education funding, limits and the creation of a study to control costs.

Sec. 2

The provision which holds harmless a district to no more than a 3.5% shift in equalized students count from the previous year.

Sec. 3

Revises the small school funding system so that it is based on grade size

Sec. 3a

Permits a small schools study during the 2000 Legislative Session by the House and Senate Education Committees.

Sec. 17a

Clarifies law pertaining to educational funding for unorganized towns and gores with fewer than 5 students.

Sec. 20

Codifies June 1st as the date for each school district to report to the commissioner its local education budget.

Sec. 21

Clarifies payments to a municipality for services performed on behalf of a school district.

Sec. 22

Provides that a majority of enrolled students must be recorded on the roll in order for the day to be officially counted as one of the 175 student attendance days.

Sec. 32

Changes the block grant annual inflation index to a more current price index.

Sec. 33

Repeals the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Restructuring Education.

Sec. 40

Provides the amount of \$36,000,000 plus to the yield pool for FY 2000 and also for 2001.

Sec. 40b

Appropriates \$800,000 from the education fund in FY 2000 for reimbursement of transportation expenditures.

Sec. 40c

Expresses legislative and administrative intent for school construction assistance in FY 2001.

Sec. 196

Removes the \$5.00 filing fee for the GED and appropriates funds for a portion of a general state support grant for each adult diploma student.

Act #062 (H. 554) An Act Making Appropriations for the Support of Government

Often referred to as the “Big Bill.”

Sec. 100

Continues the research partnership among the Department of Education, Agency of Human Services, University of Vermont, and their community partners.

Sec. 107

Appropriates funds for correctional education programs.

Sec. 126

Establishes formula for reimbursement of medically related services provided to students who are Medicaid eligible.

Sec. 128a

Requires the Agency of Human Services, the Department of Education, and the Vermont Superintendent's Association to submit a report in November of 1999 and November of 2000 on the use, source, and rate of receipt of Medicaid reimbursement funds generated by schools.

Sec. 128b

Establishes a contingency fund so that a school district may apply for assistance if the district made incorrect statewide, base year, or educational tax rate assumptions in building its budget.

Sec. 158

Begins the appropriations to the Department of Education and establishes 6 new classified positions.

Sec. 158a

Provides assistance for schools to participate in "We the People...The Citizen and the Constitution."

Sec. 158b

Amends 16 V.S.A. § 563(8) to include superintendents.

Secs. 159-163

Continue appropriations to the Department of Education.

Sec. 164

Appropriates funds from the general fund to the education fund. It also funds technical education pilot projects and the fiscal review panel.

Sec. 164a

Awards a one-time transfer from the general fund to the education fund of \$11,100,000.

Sec. 165

Provides over \$4.1 million for small school grants.

Sec. 166

Addresses the special education formula grants.

Sec. 167

Allows for participation in the success beyond six program.

Sec. 168

Grants \$8 million for state-placed students from the education fund.

Sec. 169

Grants \$7 million for past school construction aid obligations.

Sec. 169a

Specifically permits the U-32 construction project to proceed regardless of the procedural flaws in public bidding.

Secs. 170-172

Appropriate funding for capital debt service aid, construction interest aid, and transportation.

Sec. 173

Appropriates education grants and adjusts ADM errors by the Coventry school district.

Sec. 174

Appropriates to the Department of Education \$36.8 million for local share property tax payments.

Sec. 174a

Amends 16V.S.A. § 4027c to better calculate the equalized yield amount.

Sec. 175

Grants \$18.6 million toward state teachers retirement.

Sec. 178

Totals appropriations toward education in Vermont.

Sec. 186a

Provides \$39,600 toward the Education Commission of the States.

Sec. 264a

Frees the Department of Education from statute restraints regarding growth of funding toward special education.

Sec. 267(2)

Appropriates \$5 million to the Department of Buildings and Services for the construction, remodeling, and enlargement of the Springfield Vocational Technical Center.

Sec. 267(32)

Appropriates \$3 million for school construction aid.

Sec. 267(33)

Appropriates \$25,000 in one-time funding for the Vermont Center for the Book.

Sec. 267(34)

Appropriates \$50,000 to the department of Education to combat hate, intolerance, and discrimination in public education and to promote interracial and intercultural understanding.

Sec. 267(35)

Appropriates \$15,000 for support of debate and forensic programs.

Sec. 267(36)

Appropriates \$44,000 for electronic debit cards for child nutrition programs.

Sec. 267(37)

Appropriates \$50,000 so that Bennington and Addison Counties may plan career academies.

Sec. 267(38)

Places an additional \$50,000 (one-time) to the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Sec. 267b

Appropriates surplus funds toward school construction projects.

Sec. 267c(5)

Appropriates \$25,000 for the Vermont All-State Music Festival.

Sec. 268(4)

Appropriates \$4.9 million in one-time funding toward the Springfield Vocational Technical Center.

Sec. 274

Establishes a tobacco task force to review long-term and short-term strategies in the prevention of tobacco addiction.